

Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

September –
October 2026

Grace Episcopal Church
419 S. Main Street
Lexington, NC 27292-3234
336.249.7211

The Rev. Stephen Becker,
Interim Rector

gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
<https://gracelexingtonnc.org/>

Sunday Services:

10:30 a.m. in the church and live-
streamed on Facebook and YouTube

9:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages
(Not including the summer months)

-Wednesday Noon Prayer Service in
the historic chapel.

The GraceVine

Stephen's Introduction to the *Aging Gracefully and Finishing Well* Adult Forum Series:

Not long ago, I pulled a book off my shelf that I had purchased years ago but never opened—*Nearing Home* by Billy Graham. The timing felt providential. Earlier this spring, our ladies' luncheon honored the women in our congregation who are over 70, and to our delight, more than fifty attended. Seeing that room full of faithful, joyful women made me think more deeply about the gift of growing older in Christ.

In the preface to his book, Billy Graham writes that *this* is the book he wishes he'd had when he turned sixty. That caught my attention. If one of the most respected Christian leaders of our time felt unprepared for the spiritual and emotional terrain of aging, then surely the rest of us can benefit from the wisdom he gathered. His reflections—along with insights from many other Christian writers—form the foundation of our upcoming Adult Forum series on **Aging Gracefully and Finishing Well**, beginning Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Why "Finishing Well" Matters at Every Age

Some have wondered whether a study on aging will resonate with younger adults. I understand the concern, but I want to say gently and clearly: every generation is already living with the realities of change—love and family, relationships and vulnerability, health and loss. These experiences are not reserved for later life; they shape us from the very beginning. And through each season, God is forming in us the emotional resilience, spiritual maturity, and deeper trust in Christ that we will need for the road ahead. Growth in grace is never something we postpone until retirement—it is the daily work of discipleship.

And, truthfully, the themes we'll explore are relevant to anyone navigating change—whether that means the grief of losing a loved one, the growing responsibilities and emotional weight of caring for aging parents, or seasons when purpose feels unclear or fragile. These are experiences that touch every generation sooner or later. So whether you're 25 or 85, this study will meet you where you are and encourage you toward where God is leading.

What We'll Explore Together

Our course will walk through five key areas:

1. **Living Through Change** – Seeing aging as a season rich with spiritual possibility.
2. **Building Connections** – Rooting our identity in the One who never changes, and maintaining relationships.
3. **The Right Use of Introspection** – Reflecting honestly and faithfully on the life we've lived and the life ahead.
4. **Finding Purpose in Later Years** – Discovering how God continues to call, use, and bless us.
5. **Navigating Increasing Loss** – Facing grief, change, and transition with hope anchored in Christ.

Along the way, we'll weave in the spiritual practices that sustain us at every stage of life—**growth, connection, thankfulness, drawing near to God, and anticipation** of the life to come.

And yes, we'll also include **practical planning tools** to help us prepare wisely and faithfully for the future.

Aging Gracefully and Finishing Well Adult Forum Series (continued from Page 1)

An Invitation for All

I hope that this series will be both comforting and challenging, both practical and deeply spiritual. Aging is something we all do—every single day. Learning to age *gracefully, fruitfully, joyfully, and thankfully* is part of learning to follow Christ well.

So, no matter your age or season of life, I invite you to join us. I believe you'll be surprised by how meaningful and relevant this study will be.



The Rev. Stephen Becker
Interim-Rector

Grace Church Women's Bible Study Group

New meeting day*

We will now meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This schedule change will make participation more convenient for those who would also like to attend the weekly Prayer Service in the Chapel at noon. By holding both activities on the same day, participants can enjoy fellowship, study, and worship without needing to make two separate trips to the church each week.

You do not need to have the book to participate. We will watch the video together and then have a discussion.

However, if you are interested in getting the book and doing the weekly "homework" or study, the book is *Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight* by Jennifer Rothschild.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Cashion or Kathy Johnson



**Wednesdays
10:30 a.m.
Meet in the
Parish Hall**

**Grace Church Women's Bible Study
Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight**

Join us for this 7-session video-based study with Jennifer Rothschild to explore the subject of Heaven from a biblical perspective. She will separate what's true about Heaven from what's based on legend, media depictions, and hopeful guesses.

**Starts Wednesday, September 16th and
goes through Wednesday, October 28th.**

Open to all women in our community, bring a friend.

Each session is designed to stand alone,
missing a session won't be a problem.

J2A News

The J2A teens enjoyed an afternoon with some very wise congregational members at the Piedmont Center one Sunday afternoon in August.

We were entertained with stories about growing up in the church, and learned the history of some of the previous rectors, as well as Sunday school lessons that made such an impression they can be recalled decades later. It was a great afternoon, and we plan to do more of these in the coming year.



We will resume our Sunday night gatherings this fall.

The younger teens will be embarking on their Urban Adventure October 9-11th. We look forward to visiting a larger city, using various modes of transportation, seeing sites of historical significance and broadening our horizons. We will attend church prior to our return that Sunday and look forward to sharing stories about our adventure in the future.

We will kick off the fall with all of the teens on Sunday evening, September 13th, with an outing at Short Circuit Arcade. Please remember to park in the 5th Avenue lot when you are attending the BBQ Festival in October; those proceeds help fund our adventures. We appreciate the congregation's support of our teens!

Sims, Cathy, Staley, and Will



Ward Inabinett received his Eagle Scout award in the Grace Church historic chapel on Sunday August 30th surrounded by Troop 205 leaders and scouts, family, youth leaders and friends. Congratulations Ward!



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13, at 9:30 a.m.

Classrooms are upstairs in the Education building



K - 5th are using the Episcopal curriculum "Weaving God's Promises", a Christian education program for elementary-aged children. This comprehensive curriculum helps children build a strong foundation in the three essential elements of our faith—Christian education, worship, and service. Like the three legs of a stool, each element supports the others, helping our faith stand firm and grow strong.

Teachers : Kathy Johnson and Belinda MacKinstry

Middle and high school students meet at 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the Youth Room (education building). This group uses the Episcopal curriculum called "Weaving God's Promises" for youth. The goal is to teach our youth the way of Christ, not only in the church but also in the world; to help them make connections between these lessons and their own lives; and to prepare them for Christian adulthood.

Leaders: Joe Wallace and Mary Cameron Welborn

Help Wanted: Looking for People Who Like to Play in the Dirt!

We would like to start a volunteer Grace Church Garden Club to help beautify our church property. John Taylor does so much for Grace Church, but he cannot possibly keep up with the weeding.

We would meet to weed, spread pine straw, and replace plants as needed. Afterwards we might gather at the Goose and Monkey for fellowship.

If you have any interest in joining, please contact Cathy Riggan (rigganx4@lexcominc.net).

Acolyte training is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 5:30 pm in the main sanctuary.

This is for all acolytes and will include robe fitting.

Afterwards, all youth and parents will meet in the Parish Hall to discuss the Fall Schedule and complete medical release forms.

Nursery is available for the 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum and Sunday school. It is also available for the 10:30 church service.

It is located next to the Parish Hall in the Education Building.



**Nursery Attendants are
Tamara Lamb
and
Beth Ray**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026
4:00 P.M.

GRACE CHURCH PICNIC!

Blessing
- of the -
ANIMALS

and



Hamburger & Hot Dog Cookout!

We will begin the afternoon at **4:00** with a blessing of our beloved pets, followed by a delicious cookout featuring grilled hamburgers and hot dogs!

Grace Church will provide the meat, buns, condiments, plates, cups, and ice. We invite you to bring your favorite side dish, chips, drinks, or desserts to share!

Special guest Mo Chilton will perform on the outdoor stage during the picnic. Mo is a talented musician who has also been involved with youth ministry in the past. His current calling is providing spiritual guidance to special-needs adults.



Stay tuned to the weekly Grace Notes and Sunday Announcements for more information. We'll see you there!

**ANIMAL
BLESSING**

In honor of The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, actually celebrated on October 4th, we will gather at the picnic tables behind the church to give thanks for and bless our animal friends and companions.

Whether feathery, finned, furry, shelled, scaly, or slimy all God's creatures are welcome. All we ask is that all our furry friends are safely leashed, caged, boxed, or bowled, both for their protection, and for the protection of others.

Donate Blood



IN MEMORY OF
Jacob May

We are forever grateful for the extra months we were blessed to share with Jacob. Thanks to the gift of blood transfusions, we were given precious time and moments together that we will cherish always. His memory lives on in our hearts forever!



BLOOD DRIVE **IN MEMORY OF JACOB MAY** **Grace Episcopal Church**

The Undercroft Room
419 S. Main Street
Lexington, NC 27292

Friday, September 25, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

To make an appointment or for more information, please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code "Grace Episcopal".

Bring your Red Cross Donor Card or Photo ID.
Walk-Ins are welcome, appointments honored first!

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.



Schedule your life-saving appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



The new crosswalk on 5th Avenue that was put in by the City of Lexington for Grace Church.

A big thank you to John Taylor for making this happen!

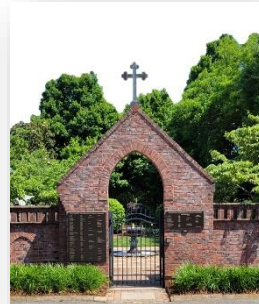
Columbarium Committee Update

The new teak benches are in place thanks to John Taylor and Sims Riggan.

Our committee will be hosting the social hour on All Saints Sunday, November 1.

Committee members include Sandra Husted, Nancy Mack, Kristie Miller, Talmadge Silversides, Sarah Smith, Dan Briggs, and Cathy Riggan.

We serve 3-6 year terms per the by-laws governing the committee, and meet quarterly. Please feel free to reach out to one of us if you have any questions.



SAVE THE DATE!!
Sunday, September 27, 2026
9:00 a.m. – Parish Hall



**The Rev. Canon Marion Spratt will
return to Grace Church for a
special congregational meeting to
discuss calling a new Rector.**

**More information about this will
soon be shared in the weekly Grace
Notes and the Sunday
Announcements!**

Flower Design Workshop

SAVE THE DATE! On Saturday, October 17th, the Grace Flower Guild welcomes Allie Key of Key Flora to lead us into a flower design workshop. This event is open to anyone interested in learning more about creating beautiful fresh flower arrangements. No experience necessary!

Following a light lunch at 12:00 pm in the Undercroft, Allie will teach us the basics of floral arranging. Participants will get hands-on experience as we put together arrangements to use for Sunday's worship service.

There will be a nominal fee, and you will need to register prior to the event. Check the Grace Notes and Sunday Announcements in the coming weeks for details!

Mark your calendar for this afternoon of flower therapy! Contact Staley Nance if you have questions.



Event Planning

As we go into our fall season, the church calendar will start to get busier! If you need a flyer/image for an event or program, please let me know. I will be happy to create that for you. I will be using the Grace Notes and the bulletin inserts to keep track of event dates to publicize online; however, if there is something additional that needs to be added to the website and Facebook/Instagram, please let me know. Finally - please remember to send me a few pictures of your gatherings!

You can text me at 336-408-0998 or email to:
kristi@gracelexingtonnc.org

Thanks!
Kristi Allred

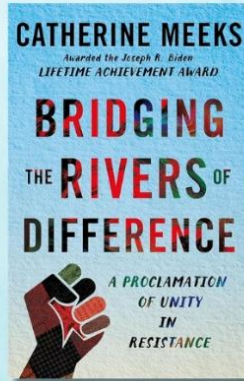


A Weekend with Dr. Catherine Meeks

Bridging the Rivers of Difference: A Proclamation of Unity in Resistance

November 13-15, 2026

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
419 S. Main Street • Lexington, NC 27292



In her newest work, Dr. Catherine Meeks draws on five decades of frontline racial healing to ask a harder question than most are willing to sit with: what if the greatest barrier to justice is not only the oppression coming from outside, but the division we carry within?

**"Unity is not optional.
It is the only path forward if we are to disrupt
systems that depend on our division."**



**THE COMPLETED
UNDERCROFT KITCHEN
RENOVATION!**



Prayer List

Adkins, Lou	Parishioner
Adkins, Mark	Lou's son
Asebes, Ella	B & W MacKinstry's granddaughter
Beard, Bob	Friend of Staley Nance
Billings, Louise	Carol Jordan's mother
Blalock, Tom	Friend of Ed & Patty Kelahe
Bolstad, Sissy	Frances Garner's sister-in-law
Brandon, Alice	Leslie Sheets' great niece
Broch, Lynne	Fran Moore's sister
Buckheit, Jack	Tere Wagner's grandson
Burke, Gayle	Parishioner
Byers, Seraphina	Mimi & Henry's granddaughter
Cashion, Jennifer	Kathy & Joe's daughter-in-law
Cleckley, Lynne	Parishioner
Cook, Bob	Former Rector
Cox, Linda	Parishioner
Crump, Wesley	Mary's son
Davila, Chris	Talmadge's son-in-law
Dixon, Susan	Former Parishioner
Ewbank, Renee	Parishioner
Finger, Phyllis	Friend of Frances Garner
Garland, Shana	Friend of Talmadge Silversides
Grieff, David	Jordan's grandfather
Griffin, Lilly	Marjorie Parker's great niece
Hall, Jimmy	Wyvonne Robertson's brother
Hanna, George	K. Everhart's brother
Hinkle, Nancy	Talmadge's sister-in-law
Hodges, Chris	Parishioner
Holcomb, Bob	Donna Wiederhold's cousin
Jones, Marlene	Parishioner
Kelahe, Ed	Our Former Rector
Kent, Ray	Donna Wiederhold's brother
Klass, Peggy	Friend of Martha Ellen Smith
MacKinstry, Warren	Parishioner
Mason, Debbie	Pam Harvey's sister-in-law
Miller, Arnold	Friend of Frances Garner
Moore, Sherry Boatright	Friend of Penny Taylor
Peoples, Walker	K & R Johnson's grandson
Plott, Gabby	Friend of Judie Reed
Reed, Cheryl	Judie's & Kathie's sister-in-law
Remsburg, Shirley	Parishioner
Rickert, Ellen	Shannon Jones' mother
Rojas, Jacklynn	M&L Cleckley's granddaughter
Saddler, Betty Jo	Parishioner
Sanabria, Lucas	Ed & Patty's grandson
Santolla, Lynn	Friend of M & T Parker
Sheets, Suzy	Parishioner
Sills, Carol	B. MacKinstry's niece
Silversides, Talmadge	Parishioner
Smith, Clyde	Friend of Bill Herndon
Smith, Martha Ellen	Parishioner
Sullivan, Sean	Friend of M & L Cleckley
Touchton, Jackie	B. MacKinstry's sister
Tyndall, Brenda	Friend of K. Everhart
Wiederhold, Donna	Parishioner

Williams, Flynn	B & B Gilleland's grandson
Wylie, Paul	Friend of Logan Sheets
Young, Charlotte	Carolyn Wolfe's sister

Those while Traveling (or living abroad)

Briana Cantrall	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Julia Klass	Martha Ellen's granddaughter
Josey Parker	M & T Parker's daughter
Barry Shapiro	Friend of Pam Harvey

September Birthdays

Sep 3	Henry Duquette	Sep 9	Trinity Sheets
Sep 5	Linda Cox	Sep 10	Lynn Meeks
Sep 6	Karl Bolstad	Sep 10	Abby Gibby
Sep 6	Rosalie Masheke	Sep 12	Pat Black
Sep 7	Beth Burke	Sep 16	Doug Hartzog
Sep 7	Todd Parker	Sep 16	David Thomas
Sep 9	Mary Crump	Sep 27	Bill Herndon
Sep 9	Vickie Johnson	Sep 29	Cooper Petruzzi

October Birthdays

Oct 2	John Burke	Oct 19	Elizabeth Inabinett
Oct 4	Nancy Hartzog	Oct 19	Sarah Smith
Oct 6	Bill Gilleland	Oct 23	Tucker Sheets
Oct 8	Kristie Miller	Oct 24	Dan Briggs
Oct 9	Donna Wiederhold	Oct 24	Marilyn Taylor
Oct 13	Pat Plummer	Oct 27	Campbell Testerman-Cook
Oct 15	Lou Adkins	Oct 31	Pam Harvey
Oct 18	Renee Ewbank	Oct 31	Sandy Reynolds
Oct 18	Ronan Sullivan		

November Birthdays

Nov 1	Bennie Wagner (101)	Nov 20	Katherine Everhart
Nov 2	Suzy Sheets	Nov 22	Roberta Spencer
Nov 4	Walt Lindsey	Nov 28	Beth DeLapp
Nov 5	Gayle Burke	Nov 30	Talmadge Silversides
Nov 14	Sidney Briggs		

Lay Leaders Schedule

Date	Lector	LEM	Intercessor	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
6-Sep-26 10:30	Sally Dodd	Louie Cox Miles Cleckley	Roberta Spencer	Anderson Chandler Tanner	Tommy Black Richard Wolfe	Penny Taylor
13-Sep-26 10:30	Kathie Goodman	Tommy Black Staley Nance	Marjorie Parker	Jack Tucker Trinity	Louie Cox Joe Wallace	Sandra Husted
20-Sep-26 10:30	Neil Shepherd	Karl Bolstad Mary Matthews	Judie Reed	Fisher Blair Chandler	Tommy Black Richard Wolfe	Donna Wiederhold
27-Sep-26 10:30	Mary Bolstad	Pam Harvey Kathie Goodman	Belvie Gilleland	Analise Tanner Trinity	Sims Riggan Bill Gilleland	Mary-Cameron Welborn
4-Oct-26 10:30	Jim Nance	Louie Cox Tommy Black	Elizabeth Purdy	Merritt Jack Blair	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Frances Garner
11-Oct-26 10:30	Tere Wagner	Mary Matthews Staley Nance	Kathy Johnson	Chandler Fisher Analise	Doug Hartzog Joe Wallace	Penny Taylor
18-Oct-26 10:30	Belinda MacKinstry	Karl Bolstad Pam Harvey	Staley Nance	Anderson Tucker Trinity	Louie Cox Tommy Black	Sandra Husted
25-Oct-26 10:30	Karl Bolstad	Kathie Goodman Louie Cox	Roberta Spencer	Jack Tanner Merritt	Richard Wolfe Sims Riggan	Donna Wiederhold
1-Nov-26 10:30	Penny Taylor	Tommy Black Mary Matthews	Marjorie Parker	Fisher Chandler Blair	Bill Gilleland Doug Hartzog	Mary-Cameron Welborn
8-Nov-26 10:30	Mary Matthews	Staley Nance Karl Bolstad	Judie Reed	Analise Tanner Trinity	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Frances Garner
15-Nov-26 10:30	Lynn Meeks	Pam Harvey Louie Cox	Belvie Gilleland	Merritt Fisher Tucker	Joe Wallace Tommy Black	Penny Taylor
22-Nov-26 10:30	Sally Dodd	Kathie Goodman Tommy Black	Elizabeth Purdy	Anderson Chandler Blair	Louie Cox Sims Riggan	Sandra Husted
29-Nov-26 10:30	Kathie Goodman	Staley Nance Karl Bolstad	Kathy Johnson	Jack Analise Trinity	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Donna Wiederhold
6-Dec-26 10:30	Neil Shepherd	Pam Harvey Mary Matthews	Staley Nance	Fisher Tucker Merritt	Bill Gilleland Tommy Black	Mary-Cameron Welborn

Altar Guild	September 2026: Sandra, Mary, Renee E. October 2026: Sally, Belvie, Kathie, Judie November 2026: Pam, Mimi, Frances, Carol, Renee K., Peggy
Vestry Person of the Month for September 2026: Kristi Allred	
Vestry Person of the Month for October 2026: Elizabeth Purdy	
Vestry Person of the Month for November 2026: Kristie Miller	

September / October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	7 OFFICE CLOSED 	8 Faith & the Arts 2:00 pm - CR	9 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	10	11	12
13 10:30 am Rite 2 Service in the Church Rector's Forum and Sunday School begin	14	15	16 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	17	18	19
20 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church ACOLYTE TRAINING 5:30 PM - CHURCH	21	22 	23 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	24	25 Blood Drive 	26
27 9:00 am CONGREGATIONAL MEETING w/ Canon Marion Sprott - PH 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	28	29	30 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	1 OCTOBER	2	3
4 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church CHURCH PICNIC & ANIMAL BLESSING 4:00 PM	5	6	7 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	8	9	10
11 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	12	13	14 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	15	16	17 Flower Guild Workshop
18 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	19	20	21 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	22	23	24 BBQ Festival
25 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church The Rev. Canon Jeff Jackson officiating Adult Forum and 10:30 service	26	27	28 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	29	30	31 
1 NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS DAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	2	3 	4	5	6	7

Remember, if you will be conducting a meeting at Grace Church, you need to contact the church office to reserve a space! Email Maureen at gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org